

I soon discovered that another California State Senator had been placed on that list. A few months later, U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy found himself on that list.

I at least had the Office of the Sergeant at Arms of the State Senate to work through, something an ordinary American would not. Even so, it took months of working through that office with repeated petitions to the government to get my name removed from that list.

The farce of it all was this: I was advised, in the meantime, just to fly under my middle name, which I did without incident.

In my case, it turns out it was a case of mistaken identity with an IRA activist the British Government was mad at. This could happen to any American.

The fine point of it is this: During this administration, the IRS has been used extensively to harass and intimidate ordinary Americans for exercising their First Amendment rights.

What the President proposes is that, on the whim of any Federal bureaucrat, an American can be denied their Second Amendment rights as well with no opportunity to confront their accuser, contest the evidence, or avail themselves of any of their other due process rights under the Constitution.

The concept that the left is seeking to instill in our law is that mere suspicion by a bureaucrat is sufficient to deny law-abiding American citizens their constitutional rights under the law. Given the left's demonstrated hostility to freedom of speech and due process of law, it is not hard to see where this is leading us.

I would support the President's proposal if it established a judicial process where an individual could only be placed on this list once he had been accorded his constitutional rights to be informed of the charges, to be given his day in court, to be accorded the right to confront his accuser and contest the evidence against him and submit himself to a decision by a jury of his peers. But that is the farthest thing from the left's agenda.

The President's proposal would have done nothing to stop the carnage in San Bernardino, where the terrorists were not on any watch list. Indeed, one was admitted from Saudi Arabia after the vetting that the President keeps assuring us is rigorous and thorough. And several of the guns used in this massacre weren't even acquired directly but, rather, through a third party.

Of course the American people don't want terrorists to have guns. The American people don't want terrorists in our country in the first place. But the President's policies have left our Nation's gate wide open while he seeks to take from Americans their means of self-defense.

So I leave off as I began. The best defense against an armed terrorist is an armed American. That is what the Second Amendment is all about. It is an

absolutely essential pillar of our security.

Our Constitution is our best defense of all. It must be defended against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

FRENCH RAIL/HOLOCAUST SETTLEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness about Holocaust survivors' continued quest for justice, an ever-elusive goal still nearly three-quarters of a century after living through the crimes of modern humanity's darkest period.

Though it is said that the moral universe's arc bends toward justice, time is not a luxury we can afford any longer for elderly Holocaust survivors.

□ 1015

Of the approximately half a million Holocaust survivors, around half of them live at or near poverty. Can you imagine that? Holocaust survivors should be able to live out the remaining days in comfort and with the knowledge that their long-sought justice has finally been achieved.

Recently, Mr. Speaker, an agreement was reached between the Government of France and the United States regarding victims of Holocaust-related deportations during the Nazi era. The French rail company, SNCF, knowingly and willfully transported tens of thousands of Holocaust victims to concentration camps and near certain death during the Second World War. They were paid to do this.

For over 70 years, SNCF, the French rail company and the French Government eluded any and all responsibility for these actions. For years, I have been fighting for justice for all victims of the Holocaust.

On this issue in particular, I have joined Representative CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York as she attempted to shepherd the Holocaust Rail Justice Act through Congress over the past few sessions. I want to thank the gentlewoman from New York for her leadership and her unyielding effort to hold SNCF accountable for its heinous actions.

While the agreement reached over SNCF's—remember, that is the French rail company—culpability in the deaths of tens of thousands of Jews is not the optimal solution, it is imperative that we do hold these perpetrators accountable and that we win justice for as many Holocaust survivors and their heirs as possible.

However, Mr. Speaker, it is important that Holocaust survivors and their families are made aware of this agreement and the claims process. Many do not know of this.

For more information, questions, and to file a claim, the State Department has set up a Web site at www.state.gov/

deportationclaims.com. I know that is very difficult. Or you can call 202-776-8385, or send an email to deportationclaims@state.gov.

That is a lot to take in.

Or contact your congressional Representative, and we can help.

Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone to spread the word to make sure that every Holocaust survivor eligible gets an opportunity to file a claim. I want to thank the continued efforts and the support of the many Holocaust survivors that I am blessed to have in my congressional district who have been at the forefront in the fight for justice for survivors and their heirs.

My good friends, David Mermelstein, David Schaefer, Joe Sachs, Alex Gross, Herbie Karliner, Jack Rubin, and so many others—they have seen the unforgettable, and they have lived through the unthinkable. Yet, they continue steadfast in the fight for justice against those who have committed the unforgivable and the unthinkable.

I, also, want to thank the others who have pursued justice for these individuals at every turn, like my good friend and long-time constituent, Sam Dubbin. Sam has been instrumental in highlighting fraud at the Claims Conference, that we know now, very clearly, occurred over decades and deprived Holocaust survivors of at least tens of millions of dollars, and the real numbers are likely even higher.

Next year, Mr. Speaker, I plan to introduce my bill, once again, to allow survivors to have their day in court. That is all the bill does, to have their day in court, because we now know that the Claims Conference process has failed so many of the Holocaust survivors.

Mr. Speaker, time is of the essence. We owe survivors and their heirs every opportunity to achieve justice. I urge my colleagues to continue this fight on behalf of the remaining Holocaust survivors and their heirs to get the word out to their constituents and their local community leaders.

If you know someone who may be eligible to receive compensation under this incredibly horrific act done by the French rail company to transport victims to certain death, please direct them to the State Department Web site. The deadline is May 31 next year. Let's get the word out as soon and as far as possible.

IRAN IS UNTRUSTWORTHY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to start by thanking my good friend and colleague from Florida for her efforts in trying to make sure we are doing all we can for the Holocaust survivors.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that these are very turbulent and fast-moving times. As we train our focus on ISIS, however, I think it would be a

very foolish mistake if we lose sight of the terror threat from Iran, the world's greatest state sponsor of terror.

In the past week, two alarming developments have exposed why Iran cannot be trusted:

First, a December 2 report from the International Atomic Energy Agency revealed that Iran had previously been working on nuclear weapons.

That is right, Mr. Speaker. Despite Iran's repeated insistence that its nuclear program had only been for peaceful purposes, the IAEA report makes clear that Iran had an active nuclear weapons program.

In short, Iran lied, and it has been telling a very big lie for some time. This deceit is precisely why we must not close the book on uncovering Iran's past nuclear efforts.

Second, Mr. Speaker, it has now been reported that on November 21, Iran tested a ballistic missile, one capable of carrying a nuclear warhead. This is a breach of multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions and is in obvious defiance of the 8-year ban on ballistic missile work that was part of the nuclear agreement.

This is Iran's second such launch of a ballistic missile since the conclusion of the nuclear agreement. Regrettably, no such action has been taken against Iran for that first test in October. Instead, the U.N. Security Council is still debating on how to respond. They are still debating. What message does that send?

Mr. Speaker, Iran cannot be given a pass for these flagrant provocations. A failure to forcibly respond now with repercussions will only encourage Iran to incrementally cheat in the future again and again, as it already has.

The unavoidable truth is that simply looking the other way so as not to ruffle any feathers in Tehran will neither bring peace nor an end to belligerent behavior from the Iranians. We know that Iran cannot be trusted, plain and simple. We know that Iran will continue to test the world's resolve.

The real question now, Mr. Speaker, is whether the world will even be interested in responding. It is time for our voices to be heard loud and clear. The United States must step forward and lead.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 22 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As the two parties negotiate the funding of government in these waning days of the first session, grant them a surfeit of wisdom and a spirit of cooperation in ongoing negotiations.

Continue to bless our Nation with a sense of peace and healing as the victims of San Bernardino are being laid to rest. During this holy season, continue to be with us.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PAULSEN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

THE PRESIDENT SHOULD CHANGE COURSE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is sad to me that it took the President 5 days to identify the attack in San Bernardino as terrorism. After I heard the tragic news last Wednesday, I knew in 5 seconds it was a terrorist attack.

The President needs to revisit the 9/11 Memorial in New York City, which clearly establishes the timeline of the global war on terrorism. He can see copies of fatwas by Islamic extremists declaring war on modern civilization dated in 1996. The war has never stopped.

The Second Amendment's right to bear arms has never been more important for citizens to protect their families. The thought that gun control can stop terrorism is a diversion from the real threats. This was revealed by the

mass murders in Paris, despite French strict gun control.

In the past weeks, the terrorists' mass murders have been horrifying, of Lebanese, Russians, and French, along with Americans in Iraq, Israel, Paris, and San Bernardino, of Muslims, Christians, and Jews.

The President should change course to actually destroy ISIL, not just give pathetic political lectures. We are facing an enemy that requires us to set aside partisanship to protect American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President by his actions never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

SOLAR INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, notably absent from the tax extenders bill released this week is a provision on which 174,000 American jobs depend.

The solar investment tax credit, a 30 percent credit for the installation of solar on residential and commercial properties, was implemented in 2006. The result has been an annual growth of 73 percent.

That growth allowed the industry to develop panels that have soared in efficiency and plummeted in price. Solar is our fastest growing energy source and is responsible for 40 percent of all new generating capacity brought online this year. Solar employment is growing at a rate 20 times higher than the overall economy.

If the solar investment tax credit is not extended, that growth will stop, demand will drop by 71 percent, and 100,000 jobs will be lost; but a 5-year extension would create 60,000 jobs and allow the industry to come to maturity.

Mr. Speaker, tax legislation that does not include the solar investment tax credit is not serious about creating American jobs. I urge its inclusion.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARY CALDWELL PLUMER

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of a patriot and dear friend, Mary Caldwell Plumer, known as Mere.

Mere accomplished so much throughout her long and rewarding life and did it with a constant smile and positive outlook. We treasured the moments we had with Mere because we knew we could not have her forever.

As per her wish, I will not stand by her grave and cry but adhere to the standards she established and always maintained of loving life and each other. Her friends, family, and loved ones admired her, and we were blessed to have known her.